

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01 INT-05 CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W
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R 111410Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6137

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2215

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PDRY AT THE CROSSROADS?

1. THE URJPPECTED STILL DOMINATES NEWS IN SANA ABOUT RADICAL
PDRY.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL REPORTS THAT THE RADICAL REGIME IN
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SOUTH HAS CLOSED ALL FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTERS. THIS WOULD BE

A HUMILIATING BLOW TO SOVIET AND EAST GERMANS AND WELCOME NEWS TO SAUDIS WHO ARE ASKING FOR A "MORE ISLAMIC" APPEARANCE TO PDRY. OUR SOURCES OF THE REPORT ARE RELIABLE, BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE REPORTS.

3. HAMUD BAYDAR, WHO REPRESENTS YAR ON THE NORTH-SOUTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE--AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES WHICH PRESUMABLE WORKING ON UNITY ARRANGEMENTS--HAS VISITED ADEN, TRAVELLING BACK AND FORTH VERY CONSPICUOUSLY ON A PDRY AIR FORCE TRANSPORT. HE WENT, MOREOVER, IN HIS CAPACITY AS REP OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, AND WILL SOON BE FOLLOWED BY HUSSQIN HUBAYSHI, LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT AND YAR REP ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE. THESE COMMITTEES PRESUMABLE MEET ON BASIS OF FIXED SCHEDULE BUT IN FACT SCHEDULE IS MORE HOORED IN BREACH THAN OBSERVANCE. FINALLY, AHMED ABDO SAID IS GOING ON A MISSION TO SOUTH YEMEN IN NEXT FEW DAYS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE SUCH A TRIP BY SAID UNPRECEDENTED AND, UNTIL NOW, UNTHINKABLE.

4. PDRY IS CLEARLY LOOKING FOR WAY TO DO SOMETHING WHICH WILL IMPRESS SAUDIS, WHO HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT ONE OF THEIR DEMANDS FOR BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PDRY IS BETTER PDRY-YEMENI RELATIONSHIP, AND ESPECIALLY END RPT END TO PDRY INFILTRATION, SABOTAGE AND HOSTILE PROPAGANDA IN SOUTHERN PART OF YAR. AHMED ABDO SAID, WHO AS MINISTER OF STATE IS ONE OF FOUR KEY ADVISORS TO HAMDI, DOUBLES IN BRASS AS OVERSEER OF SECURITY IN WESTERN PART OF TAIZ PROVINCE, HIS HOME. HE HAS BEEN VERY MUCH ON PDRY BLACKLIST (AND, HE THINKS, MAYBE OF THEIR HIT LIST) AND WOULD GET AN INVITATION TO ADEN ONLY IF PDRY IS PREPARED TO GO TO UNPRECEDENTED LENGTHS TO ADJUSTS RELATIONS WITH YAR AND REST OF PENINSULA.

5. WHEN BEYDAR CAME BACK FROM TRIP TO ADEN HE REPORTED TO FONMIN ABDALLAH AL-ASNAG THAT NEWS OF SAUDI LARGESSE TO YAR HAD HAD SOBERING IMPACT ON SOUTHERNERS. ASNAG TOLD ME TODAY THAT \$700,000,000 IS MUSIC IN EARS OF YEMENIS BOTH NORT AND SOUTH OF THE BORDER. SOVIETS CAN'T MATCH SUCH FIGURES, HE SAID, CHUCKLING AT THE THOUGHT THAT HIS UNLOVED BROTHERS IN SOUTH MAY HAVE BEEN UNWITTING SUPPORTERS OF YAR SIDE IN RECENT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AID

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NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAUDIS. MORE SERIOUSLY, ASNAG SAID HE HOPED A GENEROUR SAUDI OFFER ON MILITARY AID TO YAR LATER THIS MONTH WOULD HAVE FURTHER SALUTARY EFFECT ON PDRY LEADERSHIP.

6. FINALLY, ASNAG SAID THAT SOUTH YEMENIS HAVE GIVEN OIL CONCESSION ON SOCOTRA TO CHEVRON. HE SHRUGS AT SUGGESTION THERE MIGHT BE OIL ON SOCOTRA, WHICH IS FAMOUS EVEN AMONG ARABS AS HARSH AND FORBIDDING LAND. ASNAG

IS MORE CERTAIN THAT EGYPTIANS SUGGESTED THIS TO SOUTH YEMENIS
AS "STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION."

7. ASNAG SAID THAT SAUDIS AND OTHER ARABS HAD BETTER CHANCE
NOW THAN EVER BEFORE TO GET AT SOUTH YEMENIS, EITHER BY INDUCING
A MODERATION OF THEIR POSITIONS--WHICH ASNAG THINKS WILL BE
TOUGH--OR BY DIVIDING THEM INTERNALLY--WHICH ASNAG THINKS A MORE
LIKELY PROSPECT. HE SAID THAT IN SEPTEMBER HE EXPECTED THAT
THE UNIFICATION OF THE FOUR PARTIES OF SOUTH YEMEN (COMMUNIST,
IRAQI BAATH, NLF AND THE ERSATZ YEMEN REVOLUTIONARY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY) WOULD BE ANNOUNCED, BUT THAT SHOULD NOT
MISLEAD ANYONE ABOUT THE UNCERTAINTY IN THE SOUTH ABOUT ITS
FUTURE COURSE.

8. COMMENT: WE CANNOT JUDGE HOW FAR OR HOW FAST PDRY
MIGHT BE WILLING TO GO TO ACCOMMODATE THE SAUDIS. THERE
ARE CERTAINLY GOOD OMENS IN THE UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS
NOTED EARLIER.
RANSOM

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